



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2007

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New Mapping and Analysis System Aids Traffic Safety in Yolo County

(Woodland, CA) – The Yolo County Planning and Public Works department will soon have the ability to produce graphical and analytical reports on motor vehicle collisions throughout the county, resulting in enhanced efforts to improve traffic safety. The program will use existing mapping technology from the county’s geographic information system (GIS) in combination with collision data received from the California Highway Patrol’s Statewide Information Transportation Record Service. The new system is expected to improve the efficiency and accuracy of identifying and analyzing critical collision locations on the county roads system and was made possible by a \$59,750 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“This is great news,” said John Bencomo, Director for the Yolo County Planning and Public Works Department. “The additional funding will help us move to the next step in improving the effectiveness and accuracy of our communication with the California Highway Patrol. By graphically identifying potential hazardous intersections via GIS mapping, the program will help concentrate our limited resources into implementing solutions.”

The new mapping and analysis program was a recommendation of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors’ Multi Casualty Incident (MCI) task force, which convened in 2006, chaired by Supervisor Mariko Yamada. The task force was comprised of emergency medical service providers, health and safety workers, state traffic safety, law enforcement, fire professionals, and Yolo County staff. The Board of Supervisors requested that the MCI task force examine and analyze trends, make a preliminary determination of the potential impact on county populations, and suggest possible remedies for deficiencies identified in existing systems.

“The MCI task force was charged to investigate traffic collisions with multiple injured victims on unincorporated county roads following a spike in the number of critical incidents in 2006,” said Mariko Yamada, Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair and Board liaison to emergency medical services, which includes fire, ambulance, paramedic/emergency medical technician services, hospital/emergency room care, law enforcement response, and air medical evacuation. “I’m gratified to see this new program come out of our work together.”

“We need every weapon possible in the fight against death and injury on our roadways,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “Using this technology to show where collisions are a problem, and also aiding in the critical care needed by victims, will help save lives in both the short and long term.”

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